

**DRM**  
**Digital Radio Mondiale**

H. Donald Messer, Dr. Eng.  
Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM)  
Technical Committee Chairman

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**Via Electronic Filing**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., S.W., TW-A325  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Digital Audio Broadcasting, MM Docket No. 99-325

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to section 1.1206(b)(2) of the Commission's rules, we hereby submit this notice regarding an *ex parte* meeting in the above-mentioned proceedings.

On Tuesday, October 17, 2006, H. Donald Messer, Technical Committee Chairman of Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM), met with Ms. Heather Dixon and Ms. Krista Witanowski of Commissioner Martin's office, at the offices of the Federal Communications Commission.

As noted in the attachment, the purpose of the meeting was to introduce the DRM terrestrial system at the Commissioners' level with a focus on how the DRM system might be used by FCC licensed, or to be licensed, broadcasters. This would be done primarily, if not exclusively, in the shortwave bands with a novel means to be of interest to community service and to other, longer range, local broadcasters who may wish to add program services. In the case of community services, instead of LPFM use with the possibility of interference with major FM station broadcasts, it may be possible to provide

the same service in the 26 MHz band without any interference considerations , as has been successfully tested by DRM. DRM is the only digital system standardized in the shortwave bands. (These points were mentioned under the D(a) category in the attachment.)

We left a copy of DRM's "Broadcasters' User Manual" with Ms. Dixon.

In accordance with the Commission's rules, this *ex parte* notice is being filed electronically in the above-referenced docket. If you have any questions regarding this filing, please do not hesitate to contact me via phone or e-mail.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Don Messer

*ATTACHMENT*

INFO. FOR 10/17/06 MEETING WITH MS. HEATHER DIXON  
FCC Commissioner Martin's Office

Don Messer,  
DRM Tech. Committee Chair  
Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM)

- A. What might the FCC do now?
  - (a) Allow 26 MHz (local broadcasting) tests;
  - (b) Address the IBOC "monopoly" on terrestrial digital broadcasting in the US.
- B. DRM is a worldwide consortium of approximately 100 members, among them major broadcasters and equipment manufacturers.
- C. We are fully ready for broadcast operations in the AM and shortwave bands;  
live broadcasts are made in various parts of the world. Operation in the FM band is on the way.
- D. How might DRM be used in the US in the near future?
  - (a) Substitute for LPFM; i.e. Community Service with extremely low powers in the uppermost shortwave band – around 26 MHz;
  - (b) For additional programming, use 10 or 20 kHz DRM signals to cover metropolitan areas with power levels around 1 – 5 kW in the 26 MHz band;
  - (c) Excellent performance in the AM band with channel bandwidths of only 10 kHz.